

## On Iowa: a University and Its People

ISSN 0003-4827

Copyright © 1984 State Historical Society of Iowa. This article is posted here for personal use, not for redistribution.

---

### Recommended Citation

"On Iowa: a University and Its People." *The Annals of Iowa* 47 (1984), 400-401.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.9032>

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](#)

because of its brevity, the book does not address some potentially important survey questions. For example, how did Marshall select his survey sites? Can one rely upon oral history sources for rural building dates? How did the author deal with demolished buildings? Although *Folk Architecture in Little Dixie* is concise and readable, the reader is deprived of having a complete consideration of any single building or building type. One wishes that the author might have appended a catalog of surveyed buildings, organized by type and including complete survey information on each.

However, Marshall does present information useful to the historian and the preservationist. He clearly develops the pattern and history of regional settlement, the oral history themes which dominate folk identity, and the impact of later German settlement on the local building pattern. However, the importance of having a regional identity and a homogeneous cultural base with which to work is only inferred by Marshall. Folk does not always mean ethnic, and folk architecture can be found anywhere.

*Folk Architecture in Little Dixie* should be of particular interest to midwestern preservationists and historians because it addresses an upland southern folk building tradition which is to be found throughout the southern midwest. As a proponent of the importance of folk architecture Marshall warns that a very important component of our built environment remains ignored and unstudied and consequently is rapidly being lost.

IOWA STATE HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT

JAMES E. JACOBSEN

## Book Notices

*On Iowa: A University and Its People*, by Louise Roalson. (Iowa City: Penfield Press, 215 Brown St., 1983. pp. 88, photographs, recipes, \$4.95 paper.)

A lively account of the University of Iowa and some of its notables is accented by illustrations (sixteen of them in color) of campus buildings, old photos, sports photos, and an added bonus is the ninety-five delicious recipes from alumni, faculty, and friends. The author, a journalism graduate of Iowa and a reporter for the *Daily Iowan*, the *Marshalltown Times Republican*, and the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, has told the story of the University in a capsule form beginning with the founding in 1847 and tracing its history from early struggles through later triumphs. Tales of student shenanigans, homecoming traditions, and the evolution of "Herky the Hawk" are related.

## Book Notices

Truly a book worthy of the attention of anyone ever associated with the University of Iowa.

*From Rift to Drift: Iowa's Story in Stone*, by Jack C. Troeger. (Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1983. pp. 152, illustrations, list of sources, index, \$14.95 cloth.)

The author, an earth science teacher in the Ames Community School district, offers a minicourse in geology written in everyday terms. It is the only book available on Iowa's geological past written as much for the general public as for an earth science class. The numerous illustrations are most helpful and most of the photos were taken by the author himself. This slim volume should be well utilized in the public schools around the state and is exciting reading to anyone interested in the state's rocky past.

*Fossils of Iowa: Field Guide to Paleozoic Deposits*, by Robert C. Wolf, illustrations by Carol Ann Ratcliff. (Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1983. pp. 198, illustrations, glossary, references, index, \$9.95 paper.)

Written primarily for amateurs and students of paleontology, this work provides precise geographic locations of more than 150 geological sites throughout Iowa and parts of Nebraska and Minnesota. The fossils likely to be found in each site are listed and illustrated at the end of the book. The author, a native of Pocahontas, has over six years of intensive field work as well as some sixteen years of personal collecting in Paleozoic fossils of invertebrates, vertebrates, and plants. Particularly useful for the amateur geologist is a listing of a series of selected geological surveys available from the state. For the fossil collector and those interested in paleontology this is a useful guide.

*Women of the West*, by Cathy Luchetti in collaboration with Carol Olwell. (St. George, UT: Antelope Island Press, 1982. pp. 240, photographs, chronology, bibliography, sources, \$25.00 cloth.)

The author did not intend for this to be an academic history, but a document of human experience. It tells the story of eleven women who traveled to the vast reaches of the American West—women of varying economic, social, racial, and religious backgrounds. This is a most handsome volume with over 140 photographs of women at work and play gathered from over forty universities, historical societies, and public libraries in sixteen states; many have never been published

Copyright of *Annals of Iowa* is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.